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Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council • The Disability Network
iTelehealth, Inc. • American Telemedicine Association • Southern Sierra Medical Clinic

Date: September 20, 2001

Re: ET Docket 98-153 /

The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you in response to the Federal Communications Commission's notice of proposed rulemaking on ultrawideband technology. We encourage the FCC to quickly move forward to allow this new wireless technology to be put to use in the service of public safety, education and public health.

As representatives of organizations and individuals who serve the public in a variety of ways, we are interested in the benefits that this new technology can bring to help us do our jobs. For example:

- Providing public safety personnel with short-range communications technologies for emergencies, tracking firefighters inside a building or detecting victims under earthquake rubble.

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- Supporting low cost, high-speed wireless devices for schools and students connecting to the Internet and local area networks, and helping to solve the expensive problem of retrofitting older buildings or providing broadband connectivity to support educational applications in the classroom.
- Creating new ways for medical personnel to monitor and track the location of patients and medical equipment, enabling real-time transmission of health information to emergency personnel, and enhancing the safety and independence of elderly individuals or persons with disabilities.

We encourage you to move forward with consideration of this important issue and to provide Americans with the opportunity to put new technologies to use to save lives and benefit the public. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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